



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

**THE JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004**

TOMMY WELLS
Councilmember, Ward 6
Chairperson
Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety

Committee Member
Education
Transportation and the Environment
Human Services
Workforce and Community Affairs

February 26, 2013

Charles J. Willoughby
Inspector General
717 14th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Willoughby:

On February 20, 2013, the Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department ("FEMS") testified before me as part of the Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety's ("Committee") annual performance oversight hearings. I write regarding information discussed at that hearing and request that your office further investigate this matter.

During preparation for the Committee's annual performance oversight hearing on FEMS, I learned that 19 of the top 25 overtime earners were employees within the fleet management division.¹ These employees alone earned in excess of \$871,000 in Fiscal Year 2012. This matter was addressed twice at the public oversight hearings on February 20, 2013 – first at the hearing for the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice and second at the hearing for FEMS.

As Chairperson, my primary concerns are with the high number of fleet management division employees earning overtime, the egregious amount of overtime earned by certain individuals, and the role of management. However, I am requesting your attention, because of this matter's potential for fraud. The top overtime earner is a "heavy mobile equipment mechanic" and receives an annual salary of \$57,740.80. FEMS reported \$97,852.65 in overtime earnings - in addition to that salary - for a total salary of \$155,593.45. FEMS later stated that this staffing level had been in place since October 2010 and that they anticipate the levels will remain the same for the remainder of the 2013 fiscal year.²

I seek conclusive information about whether this egregious misspending is a result of fraud; regardless of fraud, the individuals responsible for enabling this misspending; the extent of misspending, outside of just fiscal year 2012; and any other issues that you deem relevant. Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Tommy Wells, Chairperson
Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety

¹ Fire & Emergency Medical Services, Response to Questions Asked by the Committee for "Fiscal Year 2012 and 2013 Performance Oversight," 5 (February 4, 2013) [hereinafter FEMS 2.4.13 Response].

² *Id.* at 35.